

## CLAIMS

1. A method for handling and heat treating rectangular bags or film packs having a smaller thickness than length and width and having two longer and two shorter lateral edges comprising orienting said bags or film packs so that one main extension plane of said bags or film packs containing the lateral edges forms, during handling and/or heat treatment, an angle of less than 60° with the vertical and the longer edges are oriented substantially horizontally.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the angle is smaller than 30°.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the angle is 0°.

4. A method according to claims 2 or 3 wherein said bags or film packs overlap one another in scale-like manner.

5. A magazine-like carrier device for handling and heat treating a plurality of rectangular bags or film packs, said carrier device having a plurality of successively arranged, substantially parallel partitions to form receiving pockets for one of said film bags or film packs, said carrier further including two mutually spaced partitions arranged between two adjacent receiving pockets and wherein the width of the carrier device substantially corresponds to the longest dimension of said bags or film packs to be received and wherein the height of the carrier device is smaller than the length of the shorter lateral edge of said bags or film packs received therein.

6. A carrier device according to claim 5, wherein the mutual spacing of said partitions forming said receiving pockets substantially corresponds to the thickness of the film packs received therein.

7. A carrier device according to claim 6 wherein said partitions forming said receiving pockets are arranged in a slightly V-shaped manner with an opening angle of more than 0°.

8. A carrier device according to claim 7 wherein said partitions are flexibly held on an elongated body so that said receiving pockets may be expanded while increasing the opening angle.

9. A carrier device according to claim 5 wherein said receiving pockets have a V-shaped  
5 bottom.

10. A carrier device according to claim 5 wherein said carrier device has a stackable construction.

11. A carrier device according to claim 10 wherein said carrier device has a stackable construction so that said receiving pockets of one carrier device are partly positioned in gaps  
10 between receiving pockets of an adjacently arranged carrier device.

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